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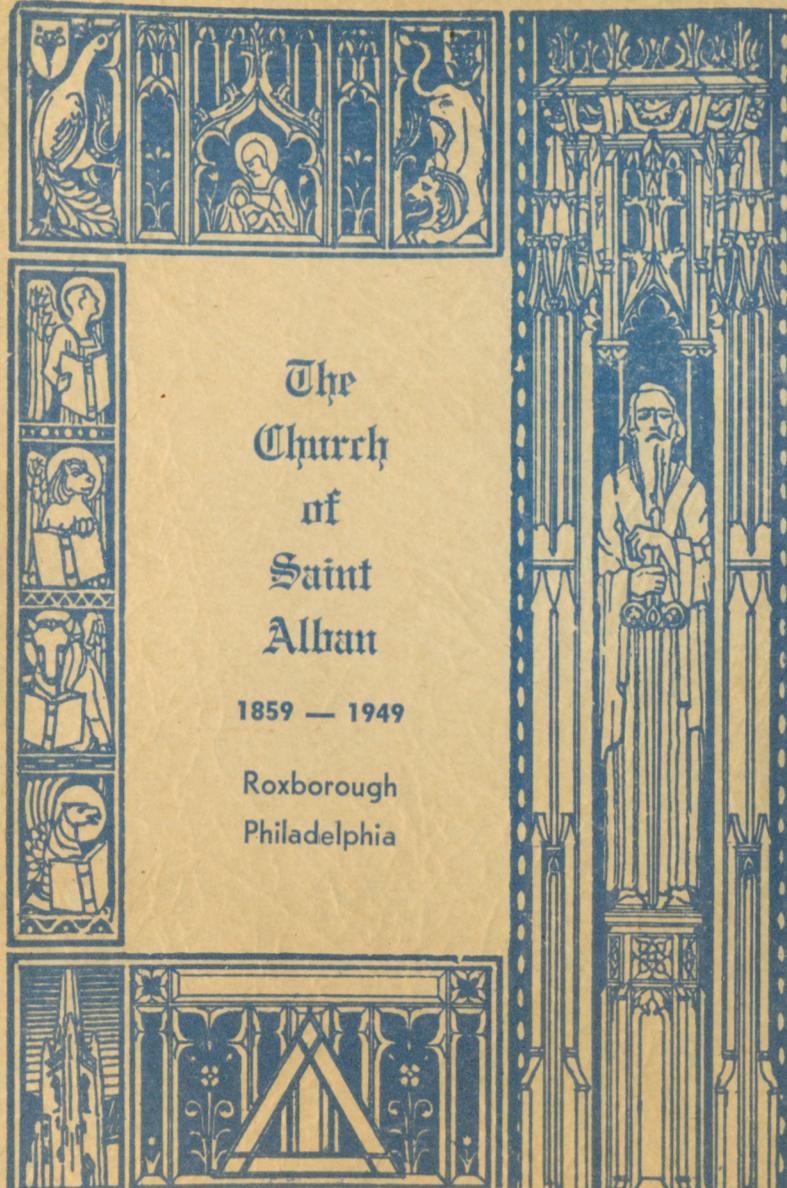
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6769 Ridge Avenue  
Telephone: IVyridge 2-2627

MR. ALFRED R. BECHTEL, Lay Reader

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### Sundays

8:00 A. M.—Holy Communion (Except August)  
9:30 A. M.—Church School and Adult Bible Class  
(Except July and August)  
11:00 A. M.—Holy Communion (1 and 3)  
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should prepare for this Sacrament at the Bishop's visita-  
tion. Other worshippers and workers should apply to their  
former parish for transfer of membership to St. Alban's.

Support of the parish is by regular and proportionate  
giving through the weekly envelope system. Communi-  
cants and families should meet such obligations generously  
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The Rector welcomes every opportunity to call on all  
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## The Rector's Message



It would be well if all of our parishioners would consider this booklet as a personal call from your rector. Your rector enjoys every opportunity for parish calling and greatly regrets that the press of much parish business and all sorts of engagements prevent more frequent approaches to your homes. To be sure, each of you are expected at the church for services and other activities. To be sure, sickness and bereavement and various emergencies and difficulties require the special and immediate attention of the rector. But there is much to be said for the friendly and informal call of the pastor and rector of the congregation. It is enjoyable and beneficial both to the parishioner and the rector. Four and a half years ago your rector was instituted; it has been a pleasant and worthwhile relationship. As time goes on, we hope to strengthen all of our family ties more and more as our whole parish increasingly exemplifies its true nature as a real family of God.

Our spiritual life must continue to center itself at the church, before the Altar in acts of worship and devotion. Social life and recreation have largely been separated from the church, but every occasion for fellowship and pleasure at the church is a chance to become more closely related to your fellow-worshippers. Brothers and sisters are not strangers; become familiar with the other members of this family of God. As we walk closer to God, let us get closer to one another. "Let us love one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, first loved you."

Our parish has gone forward in many respects, although there can be great advancement still in matters of church attendance and church support. Churchmen make the corporate worship of God a regular, weekly activity. Churchmen support the Church by proportionate giving via the weekly offering envelope. Worship is not a spare time activity; giving is not a matter of surplus funds. On the contrary, worship is as essential as eating and sleeping; giving to the church is as necessary as rent and

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clothing. God will supply our spiritual needs as we kneel before His altar; we must supply the temporal needs of the church as it seeks to make available a suitable place and an effective program where God's family may come together.

Sunday morning, November 27th, at 11 A. M., The Rt. Rev. Oliver J. Hart, D.D., Bishop of Pennsylvania, will confirm our 90th Anniversary Class of Candidates. The class is now being recruited and will soon begin instructions. Enlist now — by so informing the rector of your desire to be confirmed. Communicant status in the church is both a joy and a responsibility. As candidates become communicants by the Sacrament of the Laying on of Hands, all other parishioners should recall the vows they also undertook, and rejoice in this further strengthening of our parish family.

During the present rector's tenure the parish register reveals some interesting facts statistically:

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949 (Aug.)
Baptisms	14	15	19	19	9
Confirmations	6	8	8	12	(Nov. 27)
Added by					
Letters of Transfer	7	6	5	3	2
Marriages	3	5	0	3	2
Burials	6	13	7	5	8

In the near future, I hope to see you in the church; as soon as possible, I hope to see you at home. Meanwhile, let us labor together in the Lord's vineyard in the assurance that our labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Faithfully and sincerely yours,

(REV.) ROBERT H. STETLER, Rector

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## Our Parish Directory

### THE VESTRY

Mr. Ralph R. Moyer ..... Rector's Warden Emeritus  
Mr. Robert C. Flanders ..... Rector's Warden  
Mr. Alfred R. Bechtel ..... Accounting Warden  
Mr. William Renshaw ..... Secretary  
Mr. Alfred W. Mays ..... Chairman Property Committee  
Mr. Irvin A. Engle ..... Chairman Finance Committee  
Mr. George Dunlap ..... Chairman Music Committee  
Mr. Albert E. Tuttle  
Mr. Edward D. Pryor  
Mr. Reginald R. Hayes ..... Auxiliary Member  
Mr. John Howard, Jr. ..... Auxiliary Member

**The Choir:** Organist—Mr. H. Gordon Thomas  
President—Mrs. I. Wesley Manley, Jr.

**The Altar Guild:** President—Mrs. Ralph R. Moyer  
Flower Chairman—Miss Edith C. Moyer  
Candle Chairman—Mrs. Charles E. Rutherford

**The Sewing Guild:** President—Mrs. Israel V. James  
Treasurer—Mrs. Ralph R. Moyer

**The Woman's Auxiliary:** President—Mrs. Alfred W. Mays  
Vice-President—Mrs. Alvion P. Mosier

**The Wattis Group:** Director—Mrs. Theodore A. Bechtel  
Vice-Director and Treas.—Mrs. Charles E. Rutherford

**The Church School:** Superintendent—Mr. Alfred W. Mays  
Supt., Beg. and Primary Dept.—Mrs. Leroy Anderson

**The Girls' Friendly Society:** Director—Mrs. Wm. McHale

**The Young Peoples' Fellowship:** Miss Martha Boyce, Sr.  
Advisor — Mr. Stanley Slovitsky, Sr. Advisor

**Building Fund Committee:** Chmn., Mr. Wm. Renshaw

**The Ushers' Staff**—Director, Mr. G. Hilton Sykes

**Mimeographing**—Mrs. T. Wesley Manley, Jr. and Mrs. Alfred W. Mays

**The Nursery Staff**—Mothers of the parish, serving once a month

**The Altar Boys**—John Eccles, John Maguire, Charles Johnson, Robert Flanders, Kenneth Tomita, and B. Fray Lohr.

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## Our Parish Organization

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The parish church is your spiritual home; the parish family includes you and many others as a localized unit of the family of God. Our membership includes men, women, and children; our parish life is intended to make our worship spiritually beneficial, our fellowship mutually enjoyable, our work increasingly effective. It is imperative that you share in all aspects of our church life, that our worship of God may be a truly corporate act, that our association may build up our knowledge and understanding of one another, that our acts of service to the church may bring a sense of usefulness and accomplishment to all our people. Truly has it been said, "The church needs you, and you need the church." The family is not complete unless every member is present and active. We have a place for you—your interests, your time, your talents and energies. We want you to take your place as we worship and work together for the building of the Kingdom of God.

The Vestry—2nd Monday, Sept. to June—8 P. M.

The Choir—Every Friday, Sept. to June—8:15 P. M.

The Altar Guild—1st Wed. in Sept., Dec., March, June—  
2 P. M.

The Sewing Guild—Every Tuesday, Oct. to May—11 A. M.  
The Woman's Auxiliary—1st and 3rd Monday (12 months)  
8:15 P. M.

The Wattis Group—Every Thursday, Oct. to April—2 P. M.

The Church School—Every Sunday (Sept. to June)—9:30  
A. M.; (July and Aug.)—11 A. M.; Teachers and  
Officers meet quarterly.

Young Peoples' Fellowship—Every Sunday, Sept. to June  
7:30 P. M.

Girls' Friendly Society—Every Tuesday, Sept. to June—  
3:30 P. M.

Serving regularly but without stated meetings:

The Ushers, The Nursery Staff, The Altar Boys  
These are the regular opportunities to serve your church; there are also many special occasions for you to assist and cooperate. Parish events require the participation of all our members, and also their efforts to promote and advertise certain endeavors throughout the community. No one can expect to rest on past achievements, nor can the gaining of new workers minimize the valued help of workers of long experience. Remember, it is more honorable to volunteer for service to Christ and His Church

# AMES STUDIO

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than to wait to be drafted. The person who "has to be asked" is not very anxious to see the work prosper, progress and succeed. We know that "our labour is not in vain in the Lord." Works are more effective than words. By our works will Christ measure our earnestness and zeal for His Kingdom and say finally to the faithful, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." From baptism, you promised to be Christ's "faithful soldier and servant until your life's end." Are you? If not, will you? Begin now!

Pray daily for fidelity in your christian calling:

"Teach us, good Lord, to serve Thee as Thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do Thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

## "Established 1859"

The 90th Anniversary of the Church of St. Alban, Roxborough, occurred on June 26th, 1949. In a week-long celebration our parish made fitting observance of this great occasion in our parish life. Two further attempts to make 1949 a long-to-be-remembered anniversary year include the actual beginning of the Building Program, and the recruiting of our 90th Anniversary Confirmation Class. This booklet has been published at this time to provide further emphasis to the historic event of our 90th Birthday. We heartily commend and congratulate our Anniversary Committee for directing the entire observance and arranging the necessary details. Under their careful direction, the following history of our parish was compiled and published. We offer it to you, so that you may know the origin and development of our parish over nine decades. We expect that you will add much to the record ere our first century is completed. In this hope and expectation, the Committee submits this record of our past; the future of St. Alban's Parish is for you to determine.

The 90th Anniversary Committee included:

Mr. Ralph R. Moyer, Honorary Chairman

Mr. Robert C. Flanders, Chairman

Mrs. I. Wesley Manley, Jr., Secretary

Mr. Joseph E. J. McGee, Historian

Mr. Howard J. Goodman, Asst. Historian

Mr. Alfred R. Bechtel Miss Grace Gidley

Mr. Stanley Slovitsky Miss Martha Boyce

Mrs. William P. Eccles Mrs. Alvion P. Mosier

Mrs. Alfred R. Bechtel Mr. William P. Holland

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## Historical Review of the Clergy of Our Parish

First Service — June 26, 1859, at 6785 Ridge Avenue  
Parochial Mission of St. David's Church, Manayunk

Rev. J. W. Claxton, Rector

Feb. 16, 1860 to Jan. 1, 1861	Rev. R. H. Brown, Curate and Missioner
March 25, 1861 — three months	Rev. Charles R. Hale (Later, Bishop of Springfield, Ill., 1892 to 1900)
July, 1861 to Nov., 1865	Rev. Marcus A. Tolman
Jan., 1866 to Feb. 1868	Rev. Thomas W. Martin One year vacancy
Feb., 1869 to Dec., 1870	Rev. J. H. MacElroy
June, 1871 to . . . . ., 1872	Rev. Richardson Graham
1872 and 1873	Rev. A. A. Rickerts
1874 to Aug. 18, 1875	Rev. John W. Windsor One year vacancy
May 21, 1876 to Aug. 6, 1882	Rev. E. Owen Simpson (De- ceased as Rector)
Sept. 11, 1882 to June 26, 1886	Rev. J. J. Joyce Moore
July, 1886 to 1888	Rev. J. Thompson Carpenter
Sept., 1888 to April 1, 1928	Rev. Charles Stratton Lyons (Later, Rector Emeritus)
April 2, 1928 to May 17, 1929	Rev. Edgar C. Campbell (De- ceased as Rector) One year vacancy
March 2, 1930 to Jan., 1944	Rev. N. Herbert Caley (Later Dean, Convocation of Ger- mantown)
March 15, 1945 — — — —	Rev. Robert H. Stetler, Present Rector

**Total: 16 Rectors of the Parish**

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90th Anniversary

of the

## Church of St. Alban

1949

By JOSEPH E. J. McGEE  
and HOWARD J. GOODMAN

During the distressing years preceding the Civil War there were fourteen Protestant Episcopal Churches established in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Among these were the Church of Saint Alban, now located at Ridge and Fairthorne Avenues, and St. Timothy's Church at Ridge and Jamestown Avenues, Roxborough.

Early in the year 1859, a number of communicants of St. David's P. E. Church, Manayunk, who resided in the vicinity of Ridge Avenue and Crease's Lane (now Livesey Lane) desired a church in Roxborough. As a result of several meetings, a congregation was formed and called tentatively, "St. Peter's Church".

When actual organization started these people took as a name, "The Church of St. Alban", in honor of the first British martyr, Alban.

The first service was held in a store at 6785 Ridge Avenue, which is now a private dwelling, two doors north of the present church property. This service was held on June 26, 1859, eight days prior to the Fourth of July observance of the "Wissahickon Sunday School", which afterwards became St. Timothy's Church.

The initial service, in the store on Ridge Avenue, was conducted by Rev. J. W. Claxton, then Rector of St. David's Church, Manayunk.

There were fifty persons present, and on the following Sunday, July 3, 1859, a Sunday School was organized with forty-eight pupils in attendance. The Primary Department met in the home of Alfred Crease, at the northeast corner of Ridge and Fairthorne Avenues. The Primary teachers were Miss Louisa Crease, now Mrs. Louisa

C. Harper, who is still living at 401 Green Lane; and a Miss Dannaker.

Giving the greatest impetus to this early movement was Frederick F. Fairthorne, who owned what is now a major part of the familiar Fairmount Farms. The present Fairthorne Avenue was the private road to his estate and was guarded by gates at the Ridge Avenue entrance.

The men who composed the first vestry, which drew the Church Charter, were: Frederick F. Fairthorne, D. Mason Godwin, Joshua Garsed, Joshua S. Garsed, C. C. Von Tagen, T. Cecil Andrews, Albert N. Rorer and Charles I. Crease.

Frederick F. Fairthorne donated the property on which the Church Parish House, the one-time horse sheds, and the drive are located. The corner lot was purchased in May of 1879, and a Rectory was built thereon and completed by the contractor, Benjamin T. Lentz, on November 8, 1879.

At a meeting of the vestry of St. David's Church, held on February 16, 1860, a letter was received from Mr. Fairthorne, offering to assume the payment of \$500 for the support of Rev. R. H. Brown, a deacon, to serve as assistant to Rev. J. W. Claxton, and to have charge of the St. Alban's Mission for one year. The offer was accepted. On May 10, 1860, Mr. Fairthorne made another offer of \$500 towards a church building and stated there was \$2000 in view. St. David's accepted the offer and appointed Alfred I. Crease and Jacob Casselberry to view the proposed site and see to conveyance of the property. On September 12, 1860, these two men reported that the lot had been deeded and the Chapel was in the course of construction, and three days afterward, on September 15, 1860, the cornerstone was formally laid.

Alfred I. Crease, who lived at Ridge Avenue and Crease's Lane, was chairman of the Building Committee. Alfred Byles was the architect; John Lehman the mason; and Turner & Brown were the carpenters. Incidentally, the same James Turner was the foreman carpenter when St. David's new church was erected in 1880.

Rev. Mr. Brown terminated his service on January 1, 1861, and at that time the organization of a parish was seriously discussed. As to the name of the mission, Mr. Fairthorne wrote to St. David's Accounting Warden, that

the St. Alban's people had not yet applied for a charter, but that those who attended its services were in the habit of calling the church "St. Alban's" and that when application for the Charter was made, it would be under that name.

In a letter dated March 25, 1861, Mr. Fairthorne stated that Rev. Chas. R. Hale, a deacon and later Bishop of the Diocese of Cairo, Illinois, had been secured to conduct the services in the unfinished church building. In the same year this clergyman was ordained a priest and became assistant rector of Christ Church, Germantown.

The first service in the finished church was held on October 13, 1861. In July of the same year, Rev. Marcus A. Tolman, previously assistant rector of St. David's Church, was chosen rector, and ordained a priest in November of 1865, he being the rector during the trying days of the War of Rebellion.

About one-half of the parish house had been completed at that time. It possessed a belfry carrying three small bells, one of which was tapped during Rev. Mr. Tolman's time by a rope leading to the vestry room, to inform the communicants that he was ready to begin the service. In the parish house, at the time of its completion, Howard McBride, of Pechin Street, started his Sunday School career, in the Primary Department.

Six days after Right Rev. William Bacon Stevens was consecrated Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania (on January 8, 1862) he dedicated the Church of Saint Alban building to the worship of God.

The clergy who participated in the dedication services were Rev. Dr. G. E. Hare, Rev. Dr. Benjamin Watson, Rev. George Leeds, Rev. Richardson Graham, Rev. E. W. Syle, Rev. E. L. Lycett, Rev. J. Leighton McKim, Rev. S. F. Hotchkin, Rev. Benjamin Wistar Morris, and Rev. Marcus A. Tolman, the Rector. Other clergy present included: John Woart of Norristown; Samuel Smith of Hulmeville; Chandler Hare; Charles R. Hale, and F. G. Clemson.

On June 30, 1862, after receiving formal notification of the Church's admission to the Diocesan Convention, the Secretary of St. David's vestry was instructed to return the deed to Mr. Fairthorne, he, with Charles I. Crease, being the respective wardens of the new parish.

In April of 1863 the founder, Mr. Fairthorne, met with

financial difficulties and removed to Australia. He was living in Woodbury, N. J., in 1899, and probably dying there; was interred in St. Alban's churchyard in December of 1899. His wife, Emma Parker Rand, was buried in the same plot in 1906. A few years previous to his death, Mr. Fairthorne visited the Sunday School while it was in session. He showed a continued interest in the welfare of the parish and his removal brought trying days to the church.

In January, 1866, Rev. Thomas W. Martin became pastor and remained until February, 1868. A year of services by lay readers followed. In February, 1869, Rev. J. H. MacElroy became rector, remaining less than two years.

Rev. Richardson Graham was elected rector in June of 1871, and remained about one year. On September 19, 1871, a resolution was passed declaring the pews thenceforth to be free. This was sanctioned and approved by the Bishop of the Diocese. Rev. A. A. Rickerts was rector during 1872 and 1873. The next rector was Rev. John W. Windsor, who resigned on August 18, 1875, whereupon Bishop Stevens appointed a divinity student, John Cotton Brooks, as lay reader, who continued at this work until May 14, 1876, about which time he was ordered a deacon. On May 21, 1876, Rev. E. Owen Simpson became rector at St. Alban's. He entered vigorously into the work, but the purchase of the corner lot and the erection of the rectory (previously referred to) was apparently too much of a strain, and he expired on Sunday, August 6, 1882. The vestry recorded at that time, "He strove to do his Master's work, both temporal and spiritual, and these speak with their own tongues and will live."

On September 11, 1882, the Rev. J. J. Joyce Moore became the rector. In September 1885, the parish house was enlarged at a cost of \$900. Aaron Hofford was the contractor. Financial conditions were bad and it was necessary to place a mortgage of \$1500 on the rectory.

On June 26, 1886, Rev. Mr. Moore resigned. A month afterward he was succeeded by Rev. J. Thompson Carpenter, and in a year's time much of the indebtedness was paid off.

In September 1888, Rev. Mr. Carpenter was succeeded by a young deacon who was ordained priest the following year. Mr. Lyons proved to be capable as to finances as well as a constructive and spiritual builder. Stained glass and memorial windows were presented by the Sunday

School and in memory of Lillie May Custer, John J. Joyce, Mary C. Hooman, Mary J. Duffield, Henry and Catherine Ashworth. The furnishings and interior of the church were changed and renovated, and the exterior of the building greatly improved. In 1890 the rectory indebtedness was paid off. In April of 1894 the Brotherhood of St. Andrew was organized. In 1897 a new Hook Hastings pipe organ was installed and first used by Miss Edith Moyer on Easter, 1897.

Under the direction of Mr. Lyons and the Warden James L. Rahn, the church finances were commendably handled. On May 10, 1898, the rector, through direction of the vestry, informed the Bishop that the Church could relinquish aid from Diocesan funds, which was done. On June 17, 1898, the rector celebrated the 10th anniversary of his ordination, Bishop Whitaker and three members of Mr. Lyons' graduating class being present.

The vestry at this time consisted of James L. Rahn, Rector's Warden; Dr. Chas. Bland, Accounting Warden; E. Atlee Snyder; William R. Knipe; Elisha B. Knowles; Benjamin T. Lentz; Sheldon M. Custer; James R. Lord; Ralph R. Moyer; Joseph E. J. McGee; Edwin N. Hofford, and Alfred Edmunds, Jr.

An endowment fund was started and amounted to \$307 at this time. On November 16, 1907, a gilded cross was donated by the American Bridge Company and erected on the peaked roof of the church vestibule. Two years later the parish house roof was replaced with slate, and all the buildings improved, most of the work being done by the Men's Guild of the church.

James L. Rahn, a vestryman for forty years, died on April 9, 1908, and a stained glass window was placed in the Vestry Room in his honor.

During Rev. Mr. Lyons' rectorship he was greatly inspired and aided in gathering an endowment fund of \$8500. To this was willed \$1000 by the late Miss Mary P. Hagner.

When replacing tin rain conductors on the church, by copper ones, in 1912, a piece of moulding in one of the cornices was found with the following words written on it: "William T. Faust and Josiah Bickings, house carpenters, Curtain (Curtin) for Governor, 15,000 ahead". Building improvements kept on apace, the heating apparatus and chimneys being improved as time and funds permitted.

During the World War, St. Alban's Church, like others

in the community were active in sustaining the morale of the soldiers, marines and sailors, who were engaged in the conflict. On St. Alban's Day, June 17, 1917, on a newly-erected flagstaff in the churchyard, an American Flag was raised in honor of two members who were seeing service in the Marine Corps: William F. Engle and J. Ernest McGee. Twenty-eight of the male members of the church eventually saw action in the various branches of the Nation's military service.

In 1922, during repairs to the Parish House roof, a board was found, bearing this legend: "Frank Mower, Jr. Saturday, November 14, 1885."

About 1926 the Sewing Guild paid for pointing the exterior of the church. The time-honored ivy and plaster were removed.

On April 1, 1928, Rev. Mr. Lyons conducted his final service here, after a rectorship of 39 and one-half years, becoming Rector Emeritus.

In 1924, a bequest became available to the Sunday School of \$1000 from the late Rev. Marcus A. Tolman, the interest of which was to be used to defray the cost of Christmas gifts to Sunday School members.

On April 2, 1928, Rev. Edgar C. Campbell began a 13½ month rectorship, passing away on May 17, 1929. Rev. Mr. Campbell possessed rare gifts of oratory and was a preacher of remarkable ability. His widow still survives at the time of our 90th Anniversary.

A new Altar was installed and dedicated on February 9, 1929. The church worshipped with various clergymen and lay readers until the arrival of Rev. Neville Herbert Caley, on March 2, 1930. Activities once more took a new life and greater improvements to the church are continuing. A new lectern and pulpit, in memory of Rev. and Mrs. Lyons, replaced the former ones placed in service by Mr. Lyons in 1889. A new lighting system has been installed. Mr. Caley has proven to be a talented musician as well as a splendid preacher. The choir, under his direction, ranks recond to none in the locality. The future of St. Alban's Church appears in a fine light under his leadership.

The vestry consisted of Ralph Moyer, Rector's Warden; Theodore Bechtel; Alfred R. Eechtel; William Hol-

land; William A. Taylor; Howard S. Goodman; Owen B. J. Fullaway, and Alvion P. Mosier.

The marble tablets on the church walls are in memory of Alfred Crease, Joshua Garsed (slain at the Battle of Gettysburg) and Clifford Rahn (son of James L. Rahn). Miss Mary P. Hagner, a life-long member and supporter of the church, died on February 23, 1931. The present font in the church is a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. James Work.

Among the valued workers during the existence of St. Alban's Church have been Annie Kimble Snowden, Miss Lily Snyder, Mrs. Elizabeth Dearney, Benjamin T. Lentz, and Mrs. George W. Moyer. Another outstanding layman of the past, who also was intensely active and interested in parish affairs, was Mr. Harry S. Sykes. The present Sewing Guild is composed of members of St. Alban's Church, as well as of other denominations, and contributes largely to the finances of the church. Mrs. Israel James is president. As one of the workers at St. Alban's School, the Men's Guild, and the Brotherhood a fine record was left by the late Dr. James M. McGee.

The rare ability and devoted service of Miss Edith Moyer, as organist for 37 years, is something which members of St. Alban's Church are justly proud. Miss Moyer continued as a member of the choir until 1947. The late Mrs. Maud Rahn Bechtel preceded Miss Moyer as organist; Miss Moyer was succeeded by Mrs. Alfred R. Bechtel.

The Rev. N. Herbert Caley is the only surviving former rector of this parish. He is currently rector of St. James, Langhorne, Pa., and Dean of the Convocation of Germantown of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

In December 1934, The Pence Plan was instituted to defer expenses of public utilities. In 1947 the proceeds from the Pence Boxes henceforth were designated for the Building Fund.

In 1935, the parish, for economic reasons, requested and received assistance from the Diocesan Sustentation Fund. In October 1944, this aid was voluntarily terminated by action of the Vestry.

In March 1935, the Sewing Guild financed the building of our present kitchen facilities in the Parish House, which were dedicated February 9, 1936.

In 1935 the Endowment Fund amounted to \$4,871.50;

today, this fund amounts to \$10,000.00 plus an additional \$1,000 for the benefit of the Church School. For future improvements, the Sewing Guild, which celebrated its fiftieth year of activity in 1948, also holds a \$1,000 bond.

The memorials of the church have numerously increased through the years, and in many ways we have occasion to remember the active service and abundant generosity of former members of the parish. As needs have arisen, parishioners, by gift or bequest, have most readily and kindly responded. The Book of Memorials contains the record of each acquisition, and is available at all times for all to read. The planned series of stained glass windows for the church, begun in 1942, was completed in 1948.

On February 15, 1939, the appointment of one to four men for the auxiliary vestry was authorized to augment the regularly elected vestrymen. Appointment to be made by the Rector and Wardens to serve for the calendar year. The first appointees were C. E. Rutherford, R. C. Flanders, Wm. Caley and Carl L. E. Schwartz.

In April of 1940, consideration began of widening Fairthorn Avenue, removing the fence and laying new pavement. The deed of dedication was made in June, 1940.

In February 1941, the Hearing Aid Installation was made in the church at four locations on the west side, as a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore A. Bechtel for the benefit of the hard of hearing.

April 16, 1941, Mr. Ralph R. Moyer resigned as vestryman and Senior Warden, and was subsequently designated as Rector's Warden Emeritus. He was succeeded by Mr. A. R. Bechtel. May, 1941, the Rector, Mr. Caley, was elected Dean of the Convocation of Germantown.

In January 1942, the Honor Roll for World War II Veterans was authorized by the Vestry, with an appropriate plaque to be obtained later. This plaque, with a matching plaque for the Veterans of World War I, was dedicated at an appropriate and impressive service on Sunday evening, April 20, 1947. During World War I, the parish house was equipped by the Red Cross for emergency use for 30 persons.

January 20, 1944, the Rev. Mr. Caley's resignation as Rector was received by the Vestry and accepted with regret, effective on February 15. After a 13 month vacancy,

on March 15, 1945, our present Rector, the Rev. Robert H. Stetler, began his tenure as Rector. Under his active leadership and direction, the tempo of our parish life and our participation in community and diocesan affairs have considerably increased. The next decade presents a future of promise and encouragement for the Church of Saint Alban in Roxborough.

On July 4, 1945, after a long period of inactivity, our parish again resumed its representation in the Sunday School Parade, and we resumed again a picnic program at our own area in Wissahickon Park, at the junction of Livesey Lane and Henry Avenue.

In 1945, within one month, our parish suffered the serious loss of three prominent and active laymen: Mr. Theodore A. Elecotel, Accounting Warden; Mr. Charles E. Rutherford, Senior Warden, and Mr. Owen B. A. Fullaway, former Vestryman. Mr. Alfred R. Bechtel, succeeded as Accounting Warden, and Mr. Wm. P. Eccles as Senior Warden. In 1948, Mr. Flanders succeeded Mr. Eccles as our Senior or Rector's Warden.

Beginning in 1939 our Wattis Group, with consistent progress, has been extremely helpful in the financial structure of our parish. It is hoped that with normal parish growth, and with more generous and regular giving, the earnings of such organizations can be held in reserve for special and necessary projects which are extra-budgetary items.

Our Building Fund, for the enlarging and improving of our parish house facilities, was instituted on July 4, 1945. On Easter Monday, the Bond and Stamp Plan was authorized and has been successfully introduced. The Pence Boxes were not discontinued, but are an aid to collecting moneys for the eventual purchase of Stamps (10c. each) or Bonds (\$10.00 each).

The Girls' Friendly Society Chapter was rechartered on September 23, 1947, and under Mrs. William McHale has become a vital part of our church's work among girls. Among boys, the training and regular serving of our altar boys has been continually observed as a great aid in the conduct of our services. The Young Peoples' Fellowship,

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reorganized with the help of Mr. and Mrs. I. Wesley Manley, Jr., is now under the sponsorship of Miss Martha Boyce and Stanley Slovitsky. As more of our young people reach high school age, this group is sought out for its program of service and sociability.

The annual reports, since 1945, are now published in printed form to give all parishioners full detail of parish activities during the preceding year. Much of recent interest and development is to be found in these reports, which deserve your careful and studied reading. Recent property improvements have included the installation of sewer pipes on Fairthorn Avenue (1947) and on Ridge Avenue (1949); connection of facilities in the rectory (1947) and the shingling of the Rectory (1945) with provision of new heating and cooking facilities in the Rectory (1948).

Mrs. A. R. Bechtel resigned as organist on July 1, 1947, and was succeeded by J. Stokes Leeds, and later by our present organist, Mr. H. Gordon Thomas.

Our Church School Organist is John Eccles; pianist for the Beginner's Department is Miss Catherine Meagher.

This brief history was first compiled as a part of the 75th anniversary of the church, which took place on June 26, 1934, and was supplemented for our 90th anniversary (1949).



THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

75th ANNIVERSARY

1934-1949

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

70th ANNIVERSARY

1944-1949

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Building  
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## Our Building Fund and Program

July 4th, 1945, shortly after the institution of our present rector, it was decided to establish a Fund for the enlarging and improving of our parish house facilities. Many organizations and many activities in our parish life have been detrimentally affected by lack of space and lack of adequate facilities for conducting suitable meetings and an effective program. As the need was generally recognized, the Fund met with immediate and continued success. The Building Fund Committee, originally directed by Mr. Bechtel and later placed under the leadership of Mr. Renshaw, has been increasingly effective in the promotion of this Fund. Easter Monday, 1949, the Committee recommended and the Annual Congregational Meeting adopted the Stamp and Bond Plan for the enlargement of the Fund more rapidly. In three months the Plan has proved its worth and succeeding months and years will make possible the procurement of our entire plan as envisioned in the plans which were generously made and given by the rector's father, Mr. Jesse L. Stetler, registered architect. All members of the parish are reminded that the purchase of stamps and bonds may be made after church, at any organization meeting, or by correspondence with the rector. The stamps (10 cents each) are pasted in a book which, filled, equals a \$10 contribution. The Book of Stamps is then sent in and a Bond is issued with the name added to the year's Bldg. Fund Honor Roll. Memorial gifts and purchases by organizations are also suggested and appreciated. In every possible way the Fund must continue to grow; as our parish family increases, the material fabric of our spiritual home must do likewise.

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Inasmuch as 1949 is our 90th anniversary year, and since we expect the full accomplishing of the Building Project to extend over a ten-year period, the Committee desired to carry out the wishes of the parish to begin the work this year. Avoiding mortgage indebtedness for the present, the work immediately undertaken involves several matters of extreme necessity which are integral parts of the total scheme of the project. The four steps taken now are with later steps in view, and are definitely vital elements of further expansion and improvement.

Step No. 1—The conversion from coal to oil, with elimination of two antiquated furnaces by replacement with a modern furnace and automatic heating for church and parish house.

Step No. 2—The location of an outside entrance into the basement of the church as an added convenience, and a safety factor for public gatherings in the Fellowship Room.

Step No. 3—The leveling of the parish house floor from the step of the stage rearward to the point of intersection with the present sloping floor.

Step No. 4—The building of a one-car garage at the rectory and the removal of the old sheds on the church property.

These items will consume practically all of our present Fund, but we confidently expect that it will soon be replenished by the sale of Stamps and Bonds, other gifts, and by special bequests for Building Purposes. In 1950, or soon thereafter, we hope to take the next most necessary steps of the total program. We cannot stop until the whole project is completed. We need more space, and the way will now be open for us to meet this need adequately when we are financially able to take step No. 5 in the Fellowship Room and Step No. 6 in the Kitchen. By our 100th Anniversary — our goal is to have it all built and all paid for! It can be done!

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# Important Dates for all Parishioners

1949 - 1950

October 2nd (Sun.) — Confirmation Instructions begin for the 90th Anniversary Class.

November 27th (Sun.) — Confirmation by Bishop Hart at 11 A. M. — "Loyalty Sunday" for The Every Member Canvass.

December 24th (Sat.) — Annual Christmas Eve Service (11:30 P. M.)

April 10th (Mon.) — Annual Congregational Meeting and Election of Vestrymen.

May 25th (Thurs.) — Annual Concert presented by the Pietro Deiro Accordion Band.

July 4th (Tues.) — Annual Parade and Parish Picnic.

From week to week, please retain and refer to the weekly service leaflets for schedule of meetings of all parish organizations and special events.

## A PRAYER BOOK REMINDER

The Book of Common Prayer, on Page 320, imposes this responsibility upon the rector of every parish:

"The minister is ordered, from time to time, to advise the people, whilst they are in health, to make wills arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, and when of ability, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses."

As God has blessed you, and as you have labored in the church during your lifetime, may you be desirous of providing for your spiritual home at your departure. Bequests may be for specific purposes or for undesignated use; they should be written at least 30 days before death, and be witnessed by two persons. In life you are a valued contributor; in death, may you be remembered as a benefactor of the Church of St. Alban.

### (Form of Bequest in Wills)

I give and bequeath to the Church of St. Alban, Roxborough, Phila., Pa., a corporation of Penna., the sum of ..... Dollars to be used:

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## THE LIFE OF CHRIST AS SHOWN IN

THE CHURCH YEAR	THE APOSTLES' CREED	THE LITANY
ADVENT	I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.	By the holy incarnation.
CHRISTMAS	And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary:	By thy holy Nativity and circumcision.
LENT	Suffered	By the Fasting and Temptation.
Maundy Thursday	under Pontius Pilate,	By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat.
Good Friday	was crucified, dead	By thy Cross and Passion
Easter-even	and buried, He descended into hell.	By thy death and burial.
EASTER	The third day he rose again from the dead.	By thy glorious Resurrection.
ASCENSION DAY	He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.	By thine Ascension.
	From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.	
WHITSUNDAY	I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body: And the Life everlasting	By the coming of the Holy Ghost.
TRINITY	I believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.	O Holy, Blessed and glorious Trinity, one God.

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In our early colonies and the United States up to 1786, the English Prayer Book was used. A change was made April 1st of that year. The "Proposed Book" of revisions in the English book suitable for use in our country appeared, but never came into general use.

In 1892 General Convention ordered a Standard of the Revised Prayer Book. Subsequent revisions were made to meet the spiritual needs of the people in the services, etc., of the day.

Through all the changes of the Prayer Book in England and America, it has preserved the main characteristics, both of substance and of style, which marked it at its first completion in 1549.

By the Rev. EDWARD H. VOGT.

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## The Rector's Message

The publication of this book commemorates 95 years of Episcopal Church activity as The Church of St. Alban, Roxborough, in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. On June 26th, 1859, as a mission of St. David's Manayunk, the life of this congregation began in this community. A more careful review of our parish history would reveal that difficulties and problems were repeatedly accepted as challenges, and courageously and sacrificially resolved at other times, opportunities and favorable situations were seized upon as occasions to make this Church an effective witness and a useful agent for the establishing of God's Kingdom. Succeeding generations of parishioners have nobly served the Christ by their work, and prayer and gifts — and many of them are permanently memorialized in our memories, parish records, and special gifts. The Church of our day owes much to the Church of yesterday and to them we pay thankful tribute now.

A good question for us to ask ourselves is — will the Church of the future be able to say the same thing about us? History can evaluate actions better than any attempts at hasty judgement or attempted justification. Deeds last much longer than words, and bear a much more permanent impact on the life and work of the Church. Many may call themselves Christians, but their verbal profession is only lip-service to God. Many may give regularly — but their giving to the Church is out of proportion with their expenditures for pleasure or luxuries. Many may find fault with an activity or failure to provide an activity — but do nothing to improve our parish life or fill an obvious need for a teacher, chorister, leader, or other parish worker. Anyone who refuses to work, neglects to worship, refrains from giving, or denies the Church the help of their interest and support is very definitely opposing the fulfillment of our Christian Mission in the world in which we live. St. Alban's faces a future which is full of potential glory and success. The realization of these things depends upon the willing, joyful and conscientious sharing — by every member — in the total program of this church.

How will we be remembered? Favorably, I am sure, if we work, and pray to give — unitedly and generously — for the spread of Christ's Kingdom.

God bless you — and yours!

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Dr. Oscar S. Dooley	.....	Chm. Finance Committee	IV3-6580
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Mr. Irwin H. Engle	.....	Auxiliary Member	IV3-1395
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### — ORGANIZATIONS —

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Treasurer—Mrs. Theodore A. Bechtel  
Secretary—Mrs. Daniel Neely  
Flower Chairman—Mrs. Harry Sykes  
Candle Chairman—Mrs. C. E. Rutherford

**The Sewing Guild:** President—Mrs. Viola James  
Treasurer—Mrs. Ralph R. Moyer

**The Busy Bees (Mon. Eve. Guild):** Director—Mrs. David McFadden  
Treasurer—Mrs. George Nightlinger

**The Church School:** Superintendent—The Rector  
Treasurer—Mrs. R. H. Stetler  
Secretary—Mrs. Stanford Ladner

**The Junior Choir:** Mothers—Mrs. G. W. Curry, Mrs. George Fagan

**The Senior Choir:** Director—Mr. William Hanson

**The Wattis Group:** Director—Mrs. Theodore A. Bechtel  
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## Important Dates

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June 12 (Saturday)—Annual Spring Festival.

June 20 (Sunday)—95th Anniversary Service.

July 5 (Monday)—Annual Parade and Parish Picnic.

September 21 (Tuesday)—"Luncheon Is Served."

March 13 (Sunday)—Rector's 10th Anniversary Service

April 11 (Monday)—Annual Parish Meeting.

Special mention is made of the fact that January 1st, 1955 is the appointed deadline for the full payment of all shares subscribed for the Rectory Renovation Fund. This will enable us to make full restitution to the bank for the loan incurred in 1953.

### — IMPORTANT NOTICES —

Membership in this parish is obtained by Confirmation or by Letter of Transfer. Persons not Confirmed should prepare for this Sacrament at the Bishop's visitation. Other worshippers and workers should apply to their former parish for transfer of membership to St. Alban's.

Support of the parish is by regular and proportionate giving through the weekly envelope system. Communicants and families should meet such obligations generously and promptly.

The Rector welcomes every opportunity to call on all parishioners at any time and in all circumstances. Please inform him of your desire for special calls and prayers. He is always as near as your telephone. Call IV. 2-2627.



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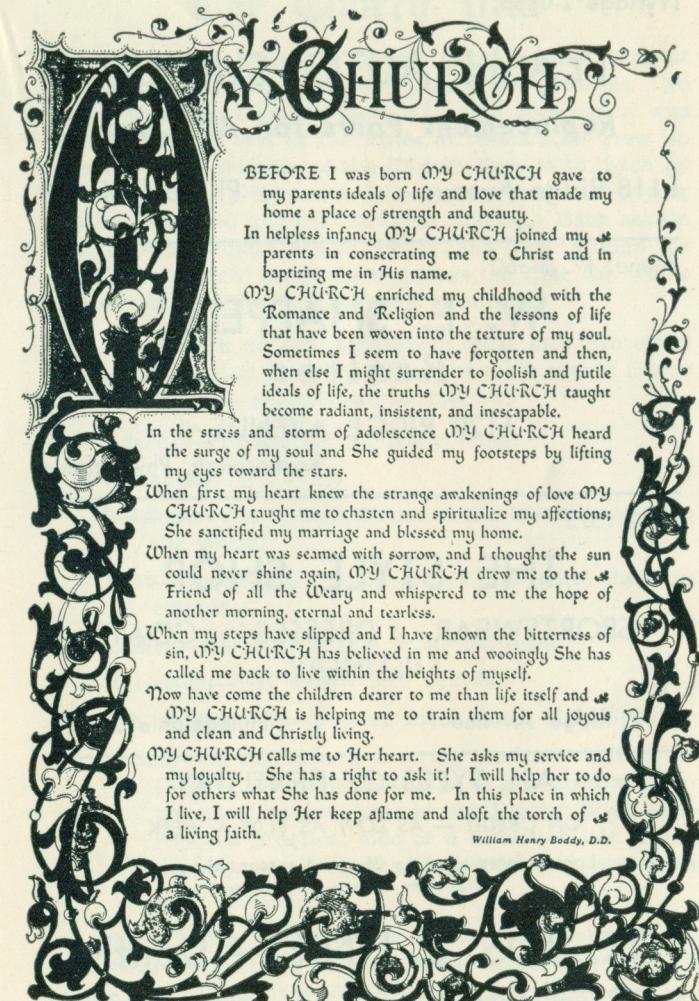
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MY CHURCH enriched my childhood with the Romance and Religion and the lessons of life that have been woven into the texture of my soul. Sometimes I seem to have forgotten and then, when else I might surrender to foolish and futile ideals of life, the truths MY CHURCH taught become radiant, insistent, and inescapable.

In the stress and storm of adolescence MY CHURCH heard the surge of my soul and She guided my footsteps by lifting my eyes toward the stars.

When first my heart knew the strange awakenings of love MY CHURCH taught me to chasten and spiritualize my affections; She sanctified my marriage and blessed my home.

When my heart was seamed with sorrow, and I thought the sun could never shine again, MY CHURCH drew me to the Friend of all the Weary and whispered to me the hope of another morning, eternal and tearless.

When my steps have slipped and I have known the bitterness of sin, MY CHURCH has believed in me and wooingly She has called me back to live within the heights of myself.

Now have come the children dearer to me than life itself and MY CHURCH is helping me to train them for all joyous and clean and Christly living.

MY CHURCH calls me to Her heart. She asks my service and my loyalty. She has a right to ask it! I will help her to do for others what She has done for me. In this place in which I live, I will help Her keep afame and aloft the torch of a living faith.

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## The Church Year

The Church Year was formed in the earliest days of the Church and has developed through the centuries. No doubt the first feast to have a yearly observance was Easter, and the rest of the series of feasts soon grew up about it. The purpose of the Church Year is to teach by its orderly and progressive seasons, the great underlying truths about God and the Christian religion. Each season has its own special truth to convey, and thus through the year, the Church varies its emphasis, so that the whole content of the Christian religion is covered.

The Church divides the Church Year into two equal parts. In the first half, we follow the main events in our Lord's life. The seasons are as follows:

**Advent**—Preparation for His coming.

**Christmas**—His birth.

**Epiphany**—The manifestation of His life and power to the world.

**Lent**—His fasting and the events that led to the Crucifixion.

**Easter**—His resurrection from the dead.

**Ascension**—His ascent into heaven.

**Whitsuntide**—The pouring forth of the Holy Spirit.

**Trinity**—In this season, covering the latter half of the Church Year, the teachings of our Lord are emphasized, and we hear in our Prayer Book services the practical side of a Christian life as the necessary fruit of such a glorious faith, and God's Holy Spirit.

The Church also observes special Saint's days with beautiful lessons from the lives of her heroes and martyrs. Consult your Prayer Book for names and dates.

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BLACK is the symbol of mourning.

Advent to Christmas Eve	Violet
Saint Andrew (Nov. 30)	Red
Saint Thomas (Dec. 21)	Red
Christmas (Dec. 25) to Epiphany	White
Saint Stephen (Dec. 26)	Red
Saint John, the Evangelist (Dec. 27)	White
Holy Innocents (Dec. 28)	Violet
Circumcision (Jan. 1)	White
Epiphany and Octave (Jan. 6)	White
Jan. 14 to Septuagesima	Green
Conversion of Saint Paul (Jan. 25)	White
Purification of S. Mary the Virgin (Feb. 2)	White
Septuagesima to Maundy Thursday (Lent)	Violet
Saint Matthias the Apostle (Feb. 24)	Red
Saint Simon and Saint Jude (Oct. 28)	Red
All Saints (Nov. 1)	White
Palm Sunday	Violet
Maundy Thursday (for Holy Communion)	White
Good Friday	Black
Easter Eve	White
Easter Day	White
Monday and Tuesday in Easter Week	White
Easter to Whitsunday	White
Saint Mark (April 25)	Red
Saint Philip and Saint James (May 1)	Red
Rogation Days—Mon., Tues., Wed. before Asc. Day	Violet
The Ascension Day	White
Whitsunday	Red
Monday and Tuesday in Whitsun Week	Red
Saint Barnabas (June 11)	Red
Trinity Sunday (only)	White
From Trinity Sunday to Advent	Green
Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (June 24)	White
Saint Peter (June 29)	Red
Saint James the Apostle (July 25)	Red
Transfiguration of our Lord (August 6)	White
Saint Bartholomew (August 24)	Red
Saint Matthew Evangelist (Sept. 21)	Red
Saint Michael and All Angels (Sept. 29)	White
Saint Luke the Evangelist (Oct. 18)	Red
The Annunciation of the B. V. Mary (March 25)	White
Ember Days—4 periods of 3 days each	Violet
NOTE: Our Patronal Fest of St. Alban (June 22)	Red

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## THE LIFE OF CHRIST AS SHOWN IN

### THE CHURCH

#### YEAR

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CHRISTMAS

EPIPHANY

LENT

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Easter-even

EASTER

ASCENSION DAY

WHITSUNDAY

TRINITY

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

### THE LITANY

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary:

By thy holy Incarnation.

By thy holy Nativity and circumcision.

By thy Baptism.

Suffered

By thy Fasting and Temptation.

under Pontius Pilate,

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat.

was crucified, dead

By thy Cross and Passion.

and buried. He descended into hell.

By thy Death and Burial.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

By thy glorious Resurrection.

He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

By thine Ascension.

From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

In the Day of Judgment.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body: And the Life everlasting

By the coming of the Holy Ghost.

Glory be to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

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## Some Interesting Parish Facts

These facts are gleaned from our Parish Register and other permanent records of our church's life during the tenure of our present rector:

Year	Baptisms	Confirmation or Received	Marriages	Burials
1945 ..	14	6	3	6
1946 ..	15	8	6	13
1947 ..	19	8	none	7
1948 ..	19	12	3	5
1949 ..	16	16	4	15
1950 ..	10	7	1	7
1951 ..	16	9	4	16
1952 ..	17	11	4	15
1953 ..	15	14	2	15
1954 ..	13	(November)	3	3
(To 6/1)				
Totals ..	154	91	30	102

### Church Finances:

Year	Budget	Income	Disbursements
1945 .....	\$5,320.92	\$ 7,594.99	\$ 6,896.56
1946 .....	5,460.00	11,831.33	10,999.72
1947 .....	6,836.48	9,935.70	8,815.73
1948 .....	7,680.73	9,482.95	8,626.09
1949 .....	8,318.66	15,558.52	14,778.10
1950 .....	8,424.06	10,040.30	9,439.54
1951 .....	8,432.35	8,607.92	8,003.52
1952 .....	8,613.00	8,822.67	8,203.90
1953 .....	9,432.00	15,145.72	14,089.12
1954 .....	8,843.00	4,149.18	3,655.78

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#### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

8:30 A.M.—Holy Communion

10:30 A.M.—Church School and Nursery

10:30 A.M.—Holy Communion (1st Sunday)  
Morning Prayer (Other Sundays)

Holy Days, Lent, and National Days—as announced on weekly  
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Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals by appointment with the Rector.

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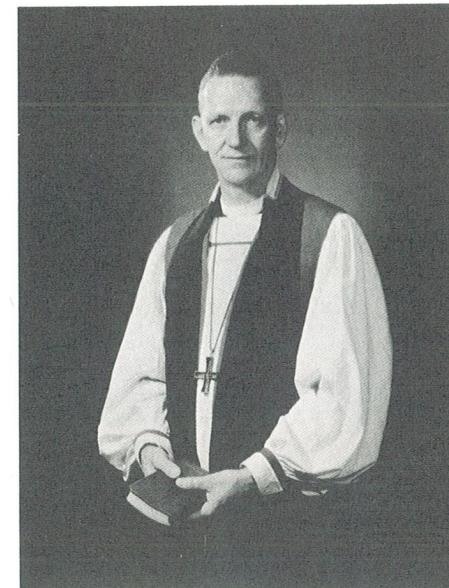
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Greetings to you all and blessings with great joy on this the occasion of your 110th Anniversary as a congregation of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Your record of service and dedication is long and esteemed. We are proud of you and honored by your devotion to Christ and His Church.

God grant you continued growth in the Spirit, increase and peace.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. DeWitt".

The Rt. Rev. Robert L. DeWitt  
Bishop of Pennsylvania

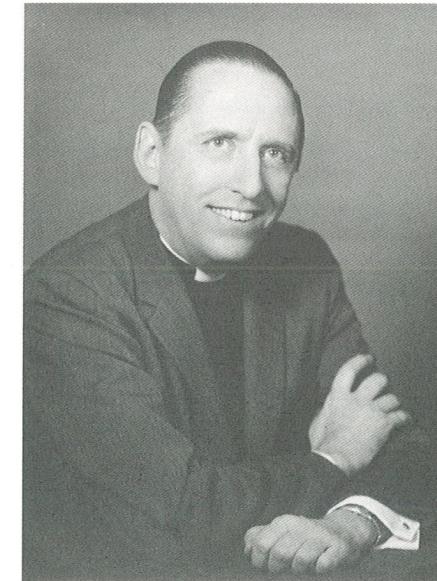
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A century and a decade! Over these 110 years, our parish has made its mark in this community. Neither words nor statistics can tell adequately what many loyal persons have done and given to contribute to the annals of our beloved church. Succeeding generations have made our history noteworthy and commendable. Laboring in Christ's Name to strengthen and extend His Kingdom, we, of today, are responsible for being worthy of our heritage and for passing on to our spiritual progeny a Church that is alive and prospering. For a glorious past, a challenging present, and a hopeful future, thanks be to God.

As I approach the completion of my 25th year as your rector, my sincerest prayer is that we may continue loyally and faithfully in the service of our Blessed Lord.

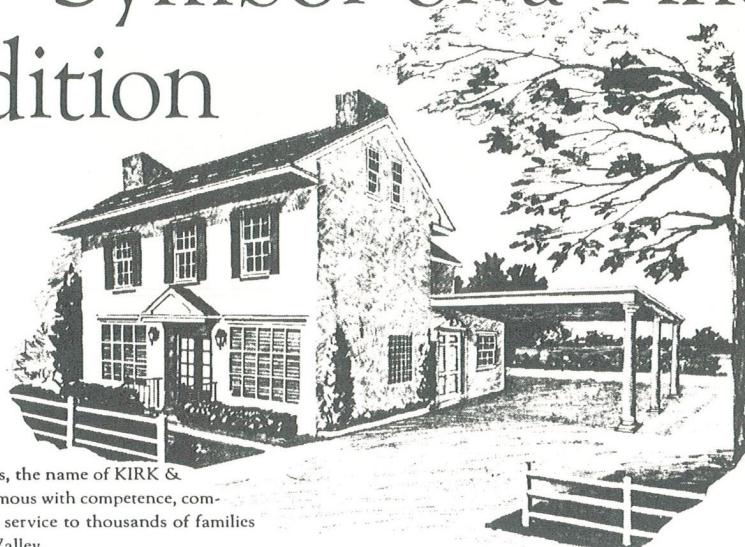
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---

### Historical Review of the Clergy of Our Parish

First Service—June 26, 1859, at 6785 Ridge Avenue

Parochial Mission of St. David's Church, Manayunk

Rev. J. W. Claxton, Rector

Feb. 16, 1860 to Jan. 1, 1861 Rev. R. H. Brown, Curate and Missioner

March 25, 1861 — three months Rev. Charles R. Hale (Later Bishop of Springfield, Ill., 1892 to 1900)

July, 1861 to Nov., 1865 Rev. Marcus A. Tolman  
Jan., 1866 to Feb. 1868 Rev. Thomas W. Martin

One year vacancy

Feb., 1869 to Dec., 1870 Rev. J. H. MacElroy  
June, 1871 to . . . . ., 1872 Rev. Richardson Graham  
1872 and 1873 Rev. A. A. Rickerts  
1874 to Aug. 18, 1875 Rev. John W. Windsor

One year vacancy

May 21, 1876 to Aug. 6, 1822 Rev. E. Owen Simpson (Deceased as Rector)

Sept. 11, 1882 to June 26, 1886 Rev. J. J. Joyce Moore  
July, 1886 to 1888 Rev. J. Thompson Carpenter  
Sept., 1888 to April 1, 1928 Rev. Charles Stratton Lyons (Later, Rector Emeritus)  
April 2, 1928 to May 17, 1929 Rev. Edgar C. Campbell (Deceased as Rector)

One year vacancy

March 2, 1930 to Jan., 1944 Rev. N. Herbert Caley (Later Dean, Convocation of Germantown)

One year vacancy

March 15, 1945 — — — — Rev. Robert H. Stetler, Present Rector

Total: 16 Rectors of the Parish

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**Important Dates in the Life of Our Parish**

**1859 — 1969**

June 26, 1859 First services held in a store at 6785 Ridge Ave.; the service conducted by Rev. J. W. Claxton, at that time Rector of St. David's in Manayunk. 50 persons were in attendance.

July 3, 1859 Sunday School was formed with 48 pupils attending.

May 1879 Corner lot purchased and a rectory built there.

November 1879 Rectory was completed.

May 10, 1880 \$500.00 was offered towards a church building, with \$2,000.00 in view.

September 12, 1880 Church lot was deeded and chapel in course of construction.

September 15, 1880 Cornerstone formally laid.

January 1, 1881 Rev. R. H. Brown terminated his services, and organization of a parish seriously discussed.

March 25, 1881 Rev. Charles R. Hale, Deacon, conducted services in unfinished church building. In the same year, this clergyman was ordained a priest and became assistant rector, Christ Church, Germantown.

October 13, 1881 First service conducted in finished church.

July 1881 Rev. Marcus A. Tolman, previous assistant Rector of St. David's Church, was chosen Rector, and ordained to the priesthood in November of 1885.

January 8, 1882 Church of St. Alban's building was consecrated by Rt. Rev. Wm. Bacon Stevens, Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

June 30, 1882 Church formally admitted to the Diocesan Convention.

January 1886 Rev. Thomas W. Martin became pastor — remained until February 1888. A year of services by lay readers followed.

February 1889 Rev. J. H. MacElroy became Rector — remained less than two years.

June 1891 Rev. Richardson Graham elected Rector, remaining for about one year.

September 19, 1891 Resolution passed declaring all church pews to be free.

1872 and 1873 Rev. A. A. Richerts was Rector.

August 18, 1875 Rev. John W. Windsor resigned. Divinity student, John Cotton Brooks was appointed as a lay reader, continuing this work until May 14, 1876, when he was ordained a deacon.

May 21, 1876 Rev. E. Owen Simpson became Rector and died on August 6, 1882.

September 11, 1882 Rev. J. J. Joyce Moore became Rector.

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September 1885	Parish House was enlarged.
June 26, 1886	Rev. Mr. Moore resigned.
July 1886	Rev. Mr. Moore was succeeded by Rev. J. Thompson Carpenter.
September 1888	Rev. Mr. Carpenter succeeded by Rev. Charles S. Lyons, Deacon. During this time stained glass and memorial windows were presented by Sunday School. Furnishings and interior of church were changed and improved.
1890	Rectory indebtedness was paid off.
1894	Brotherhood of St. Andrew organized.
1897	New Hook & Hastings pipe organ installed.
May 10, 1898	Bishop was informed church relinquished aid from Diocesan Funds.
June 17, 1898	Rev. Mr. Lyons celebrated 10th anniversary of his ordination.
1898	The Sewing Guild, our longest continuing Parish organization, was founded.
November 16, 1907	A gilded cross donated by American Bridge Co. and erected on peaked roof of church vestibule.
April 9, 1908	James L. Rahn, 40 years a vestryman, died, and a stained glass window placed in his memory.
June 22, 1917	On St. Alban's Day a newly erected flagstaff in churchyard was dedicated, and an American Flag was raised in honor of our servicemen who served in World War I.
April 1, 1928	Rev. Mr. Lyons conducted his final service after a rectorship of 39½ years, becoming Rector Emeritus.
April 2, 1928	Rev. Edgar C. Campbell began a 13½ month Rectorship, and passed away on May 12, 1929.
February 9, 1929	New altar installed and dedicated.
March 2, 1930	Rev. Neville Herbert Caley, new Rector.
December 1934	The Pence Plan was instituted to defer expenses of public utilities.
March 1935	Sewing Guild financed the building of our present kitchen facilities in Parish House, which were dedicated February 9, 1936.
February 15, 1939	The appointment of 1 to 4 men for the auxiliary vestry was authorized to augment regularly elected vestrymen.
1939	Initiated by Mrs. Carl Schwartz and Mrs. T. A. Bechtel, the Wattis Group began their work. The earnings of this group have contributed to many Parish improvements. They received first prize from the Wattis Plan in 1948, 1958, 1961, 1962, 1965 and 1966; and, to date, have earned a total of \$29,417.20. Present Chairman is Mrs. Mae Albosta.

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June 1940      Dedication of new pavement.

February 1941      Hearing Aid Installation made in 5 locations of church.

January 1942      Honor Roll for World War II Veterans was authorized by Vestry.

January 20, 1944      Rev. Mr. Caley resigned as Rector.

March 15, 1945      Our present Rector, the Rev. Robert H. Stetler began his Rectorship.

July 4, 1945      Our parish resumed its representation in the Sunday School Parade.

1953      A complete renovation of the Rectory was undertaken, and in two years the total cost was underwritten and paid.

July 1956      "Mile of Pennies" Program was formed to provide for various church improvements. Upon the death of Mrs. T. A. Bechtel in February, 1968, Miss Grace O. Gidley succeeded as Chairman.  
16 Pennies = 1 Foot  
5,280 Feet = 1 Mile  
A Mile of Pennies = \$844.80  
or: 84,480 Pennies.

1956      A public address system with loud speakers above the church was installed as a gift of the Wattis Group.

1957      Our present organist, Mrs. Mitzi S. Missimer, assumed responsibility of our Junior and Senior choirs. Mrs. John French has been choir mother since 1946.

1958      Parish requested that Charter and By-laws be revised to conform to present needs and conditions, and was granted permission by the Diocese and proper court. New Charter became effective January 1, 1959.

1958      Entire insurance program revised for church, parish house, and rectory, and other contingencies.

1959      St. Alban's for the first time became an active member in the Greater Philadelphia Council of Churches.

January 1961      Mr. Martin Lare accepted election by the vestry to the Office of Accounting Warden of the parish, succeeding Mr. Edward K. Tomita.

November 1961      The Vestry determined that all future organ maintenance will be borne by the Mile Of Pennies Fund.

September 1962      Couples' Club was organized and has continued under direction of Mrs. W. W. Bier as President.

October 1962      The Outside Cross above the vestibule was restored in gold leaf by Mr. Schwartz.

December 2, 1962      Our Rector celebrated his Silver Jubilee in the Priesthood with a special service in the church and a reception in the Parish House.

May 1963	Mrs. I. Wesley Manley was cited for 25 years continuous service in our choir.
September 1963	Church and Parish House were completely rewired and new lighting fixtures were installed in both.
November 1963	Mr. J. Bruce Freas assumed responsibilities as sexton of the Parish, succeeding upon the death of George Girill.
January 1964	Mr. Carl L. E. Schwartz was declared Rector's Warden Emeritus by the Vestry, with a life time membership of this body.
April 1964	Upon the death of Mr. Martin Lare, Mr. I. Wesley Manley was nominated to the position of Accounting Warden and duly elected.
June 1964	Mrs. Mae Albosta donated new formica-topped tables and a storage truck to the parish.
September 1964	Modernization and decoration to parish house with additional facilities was approved by the congregation. A portion of the new facilities was provided for by a generous bequest of Miss Bessie Staneruck.
April 1965	Vestry approved the establishment of a parking area behind the church.
February 1966	Accounting Warden was granted his request for a personal secretary to maintain a current check on the use of parish envelopes. Miss Jean Wright accepted this responsibility.
May 1967	The parking area behind the church was doubled in size.
December 1967	Church Vestibule was restored as a memorial to the Moyer family and new entrance doors were installed as an anonymous gift.
January 6, 1968	First Ecumenical Wedding Service, solemnizing the marriage of Robert J. Kenney and Marcia Anne Stetler.
April 1968	New public address equipment was purchased for playing of chime records before church services.
May 1968	Storm windows throughout the rectory were installed upon approval of the vestry.
October 1968	Mr. A. Milton Drobil accepted appointment by the Rector as Sunday School Superintendent. Mr. Drobil also is parade marshall in our division of the July 4th parade.
March 1969	New permanent awning was installed outside the parish house kitchen
April 1969	A new garage was constructed on the church grounds for storage purposes.

Since the 1967 Diocesan Convention, our parish has been a member of the Deanery of Wissahickon in accordance with a realignment of the Diocese from the former

convocation of Germantown. Our present Dean is the Very Rev. W. Hamilton Aulenbach, Rector of Christ Church and St. Michael's, Germantown.

The St. Alban's News, our monthly Parish Paper, has been under the direction of Mrs. Harry Taylor as Editor in Chief and Business Manager. A competent staff of associates and the procurement of valuable and useful equipment has aided in the regular publication of this informative bulletin.

Since 1945, our Sunday Leaflets have been prepared by Mrs. I. Wesley Manley and Mrs. Alfred W. Mays, Sr. Each week, vital news is thus made available to all who attend our Sunday Services.

Thus ends a Century and a Decade of Parish History. Time marches on! And with it, St. Alban's, Roxborough, marches on!

#### *The Book of Remembrance*

At our Centennial, a Book of Remembrance was placed in the church to record all memorials and special gifts. Beginning with a compilation originally drawn up by Miss Edith Moyer, the Book has been carefully maintained to date by Mr. Carl Schwartz. One section contains all bequests, memorials and permanent gifts. Another section contains a calendar for permanent memorial flowers and/or candles. This latter is made possible by a stated gift to the Altar Guild which becomes a part of our Endowment Fund. The cover of The Book of Remembrance was taken from the original Lectern Bible.

#### *The Endowment Fund*

Begun in 1899, the present value of our General Endowment Fund is \$46,327.37. It is always possible to increase this amount by gift or bequest as memorials or Thank-offerings. This rubric from the Prayer Book bears our remembering: "The Minister is ordered, from time to time, to advise the people, while they are in health, to make Wills arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods and when of ability to leave Bequests for religious and charitable uses". Our Endowment Fund assures the continuance of our witness for Christ in this community. A minimum gift of \$25.00 entitles the Donor to an entry in St. Alban's Book of Remembrance.

"Form of Bequest"

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